



WA HE LUT

INDIAN SCHOOL

Dear Wa He Lut Families,

We want to let you know our process for communicating about cases of COVID-19 at our school. This plan was developed collaboratively with Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) to create consistency and prioritize student and staff safety.

Confirmed Case

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, PHSS will notify our school with a confirmed diagnosis. They will communicate this medical information only with the school nurse and/or the superintendent to protect the individual's privacy. Our school will not share the names of individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Our School Nurse will work with PHSS to provide the information they need to conduct contact tracing. This investigation will help them determine who was in close contact with this person. "Close contact" means less than 6 feet apart, with or without a face covering, for 15 minutes or more.

PHSS will contact only those who are considered close contacts and provide next steps. If you do not receive a phone call from PHSS, then your child does not meet the close-contact criteria. No further action is needed. Your child may continue with in-person instruction. Because PHSS will contact those who are affected — and to protect individual privacy — **our school will not contact families about a single confirmed COVID-19 case. Parents please be aware that this means if an individual student or staff members test positive for COVID-19 other families will not be contacted.**

Our custodial staff will thoroughly clean and sanitize the affected area based on COVID-19 exposure cleaning protocols. Please remind your child of the following health tips:

- Stay at least 6 feet from other people.
- Wear a face covering over your nose and mouth.
- Clean your hands often. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a school-approved hand sanitizer. Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Do not come to school when you are sick.

Confirmed Outbreak

Washington State Department of Health defines an "outbreak" as two or more students or staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19, who are linked through a shared location, like a classroom or school bus, and did not have significant contact outside of the school grounds.

If PHSS notifies us of a COVID-19 outbreak, **our school will contact the families of students from the affected shared location.** We will suspend in-person instruction for students in this specific shared location and shift to remote instruction.



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We understand this news can be unsettling and that you will have many questions. PHSS has additional COVID-19 information on its website: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/covid-19-resources-schoolschildcare.aspx>. Our priority is to protect the health and safety of our students and staff, including your child.

Sincerely,

Harvey Whitford
Wa He Lut Indian School Superintendent